

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request formal examination of the amended claims in this application.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-19 will be pending. The amendment to claim 1 is supported for example by Example 1-2 in Table 1 at page 21 of the present application. In anticipation of the Examiner raising the previous rejections of record, applicants provide the following preliminary remarks.

As is recited in claim 1, the present invention relates to silicone-treated powder capable of generating hydrogen from Si-H groups remaining on the surface of the silicone-treated powder in an amount of 0.01 to 0.2 ml/a of the treated powder, wherein said silicone-treated powder is obtained by coating a surface of a powder with (1) a silicone compound having at least one Si-H group, or (2) a mixture of the silicone compound (1) and a silicone compound not having an Si-H group, and then heating the silicone compound coated powder at a temperature of 260 to 500°C for 0.1 to 24 hours. These features are completely absent from JP'646 and US'266.

JP'646 teaches the silicone treatment of titanium dioxide powder. However, according to JP'646, the titanium oxide powder is treated by coating with one or more of organosiloxanes, silicone resins in a non-gaseous phase, followed by heating the resultant titanium oxide powder at a temperature of 600-1000°C under an oxygen-containing atmosphere (see "Abstract of Disclosure").

However, since the heating temperature of JP'646 (i.e., 600 - 1000°C) is higher than that of the present invention (i.e., 260 - 500°C), the Si-H groups on the surface of the titanium powder are completely lost and, therefore, no amount of hydrogen is generated from Si- groups, unlike the present invention as defined in the amended claim 1 (i.e., the generation of 0.01 - 0.2 ml hydrogen/ of the treated powder).

The results obtained by heating mica (i.e., typical extender pigment) are as follows.

No	Heating Temp (°C)	C (%)	Coating amount of silicone (%)	Amount of H ₂ generated (ml/g)	Hydrophobicity (same day)
1	No heating	0.84	3.13	3.96	+
2	300	0.28	1.04	0.82	+
3	350	0.21	0.78	0.374	+
4	370	0.35	1.30	-	+
5	380	0.25	0.93	0.2	+
6	400	0.22	0.82	0.044	+
7	420	0.2	0.74	0.099	+
8	450	0.18	0.67	0.077	+
9	500	0.12	0.45	0	±

Therefore applicants submit that claim 1 can be distinguished from JP' 646.

US'266 discloses pigmented cosmetic products containing a coated pigment. However, according to the cited invention, the pigment is heated at a temperature of only 25°C to 160°C (see col. 5, line 41), which is lower than that of the present invention (i.e., 260 - 500°C). Since the heating temperature (i.e., 25 - 160°C) is too low, the undesirable hydrogen generation occurs from Si-H groups that remain on the surface of the treated pigment. This is clear from the results of Comparative Examples 6-1 to 6-3 (see Table 5 on page 25) of the present application, in which the powder is heated at 200°C (see page 18 of the English text), whereby more than 0.2 ml/g of hydrogen was generated.

In review of these preliminary amendments and remarks, applicants submit the present application is condition for allowance, and early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to direct any questions to applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the

wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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